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The Canadian Pacific Railway

and

Canadian Pacific Steamships Limited

have the honour to invite

BIBLIOTHEQUE
S.M.E.
1964
Séminaire de Québec

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to the unveiling of a Memorial

Abraham Martin

first King's Pilot on the St. Lawrence
and first known Canadian of Scotch descent

on

Saturday, May Twelfth at Eleven-thirty a.m.

at the Harbour of Quebec
near the Canadian Pacific Sheds

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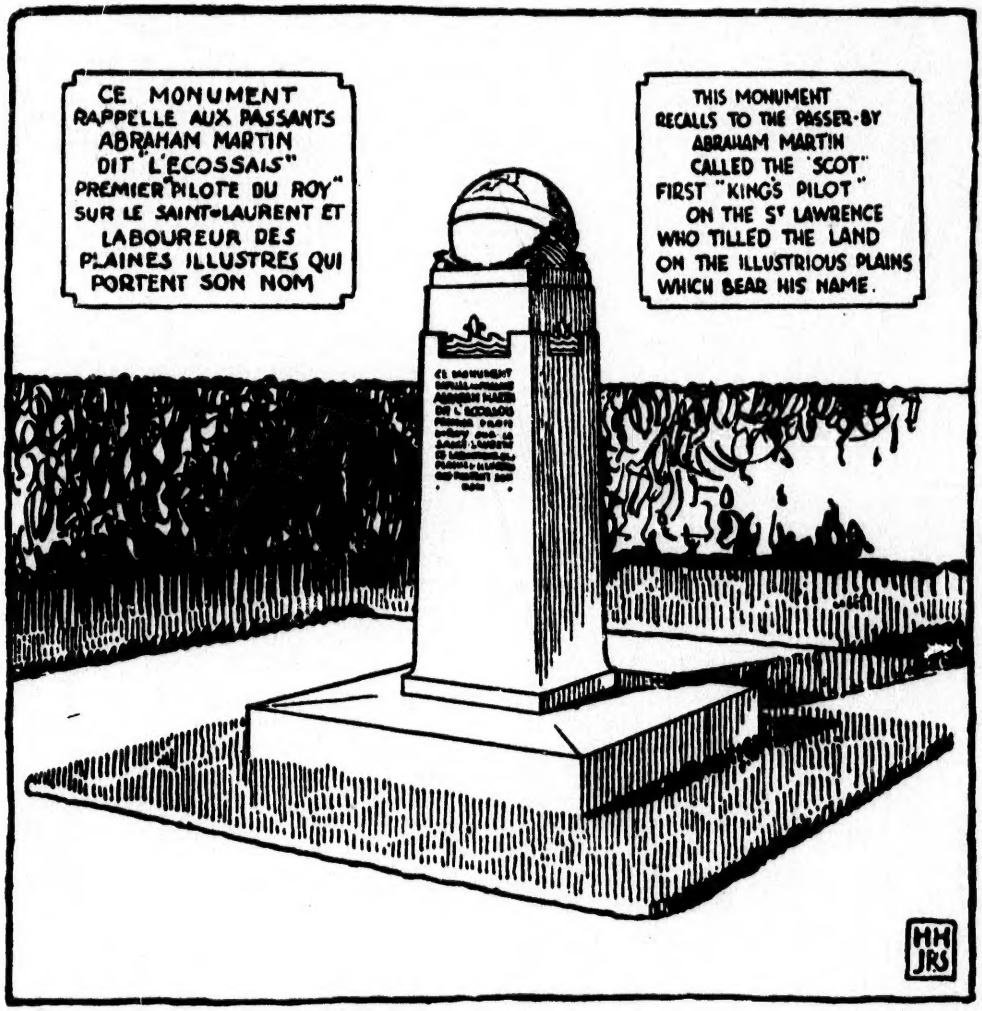
FOR over three hundred years the St. Lawrence River has been the great waterway into the interior of the American Continent. It was the route by which La Salle, Marquette, Joliette, Hennepin and Dul'hut penetrated to Lake Michigan, although a round-about passage had to be taken up the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers over Lake Nipissing into Lake Huron to avoid the hostile Indians below Lake Erie.

The first known pilot on the St. Lawrence was Abraham Martin, after whom the Plains of Abraham at Quebec are named. In the Jesuit Relations, Abraham Martin is referred to as "dit l'Ecossais" or "called the Scot," so that in addition to being the first pilot of the King of France he was also the first known Canadian of Scotch descent. Although married to a French woman and very possibly born in France, Abraham Martin was no doubt descended from one of the numerous soldiers of fortune who fought in the Army of the French King, and perhaps formed one of the Scots Guard which became famous in the days of Louis the Eleventh. Colonel Alexander Fraser of Toronto has evidence to show that the family of Abraham Martin belonged to Perthshire in Scotland.

The Plains of Abraham are named from the grant of land which Abraham Martin received from Samuel de Champlain in 1617 at the time of the settlement of Quebec. Louis Hébert, the most famous of the first colonists of Canada, received a grant of land alongside at the same time. Abraham Martin undoubtedly cultivated his own farm, but apparently was also a carpenter and took sufficient interest in shipping to get the appointment of King's Pilot.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, in view of its great steamship interests, has decided to erect a simple but artistic Memorial to Abraham Martin, which has been designed by Henri Hébert, the well-known French-Canadian sculptor, who is connected with the original Louis Hébert, and thus is particularly fitted to design the Memorial. This is of granite and shows a pillar crowned by a globe of the world, supported by thistles. Carved in low relief is the Lily of France rising out of the sea. The inscription is in both French and English. An appropriate site has kindly been granted by the Quebec Harbour Commissioners. The architect is J. Roxburgh Smith.



Monument erected by the Canadian Pacific to Abraham Martin, the first known Canadian of Scotch descent and the first King's Pilot in Canada.